

about a day's travel north of Lanchow." (Reed.)

CASTANOPSIS sp. (Fagaceae), 56472. **Chestnut.** From Yunnan, China. Seeds collected by J. F. Rock, Agricultural Explorer of the Bureau of Plant Industry. "(No. 6729. Mengka. October 12, 1922.) Seeds of a tree 50 to 60 feet high, which grows in the mountains at an altitude of 6,500 feet. The glossy, glabrous leaves are ovate-acuminate and toothed near the apices, and the burs, an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, inclose two or three brown hairy nuts in each bur. The bur is quite similar to that of *Castanopsis armata*." (Rock.)

CHAETOCHELOA ITALICA (Poaceae), 56399. **Millet.** From China. Seeds presented by C. A. Reed, Bureau of Plant Industry. "(No. 60c. Peking, Chihli.) Millet forms one of the most important cereal foods of the natives of northern China. I consider it delightful as a breakfast food, although among the Chinese it is classed with sweet potatoes as 'coolie food.' There are many varieties, ranging in height up to 3 or 4, or even 6 feet, and there are said to be two distinct groups, the ordinary kind and the glutinous kind." (Reed.)

CYRTANTHUS CONTRACTUS (Amaryllidaceae), 56198. From Pretoria, Transvaal, Union of South Africa. Bulbs presented by I. B. Pole Evans, chief, Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria. A handsome member of the amaryllis family from the Transvaal, where its conspicuous beauty as it flowers on the burnt-over fields has earned it the name of "Fire-lily." The narrow, bluish green leaves are over a foot in length, and the Vandyke-red peduncle, 7 inches or over long, bears a pendulous cluster of faintly scented, scarlet or carmine flowers with strawberry-red pedicels. (Adapted from Flowering Plants of South Africa, vol. 1, pl. 4.)

ERYTHRINA spp. (Fabaceae), 56187 and 56188. From Brisbane, Queensland. Seeds presented by E. W. Bick, curator, Botanic Garden.

56187. **ERYTHRINA TOMENTOSA.** A small tree 10 to 15 feet high, with thick, rough, prickly bark; native to South Africa. The trifoliolate long-stemmed leaves, 10 to 14 inches long and wide, are densely hairy on both surfaces, and the bright crimson flowers are borne in many-flowered spikelike clusters. The woody pods, velvety on the surface, are alternately swollen and contracted, which gives them a bizarre appearance. (Adapted from J. Medley Wood, Natal Plants, vol. 4, pls. 384 and 385.)

56188. **ERYTHRINA VESPERTILIO.** **Coral tree.** Usually a small tree, with prickly branches, broadly 3-lobed leaves, and numerous erect, showy racemes of red flowers. The soft, straw-colored wood is very light and spongy, and is used by the natives for making shields. The roots are